

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01717 291625Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 NEAE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00
OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 /077 W
-----023706 291633Z /72

O R 291447Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7338
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 1717

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLO, MOPS, LE
SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ARAFAT'S MEETING
WITH ERSKINE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. CONFLICTING PUBLIC STATEMENTS LEAVE
THE PLO POSITION ON A CEASE-FIRE IN DOUBT. ARAFAT
TOLD ERSKINE THAT THE PLO WOULD ACCEPT A CEASE-FIRE IN
SOUTH LEBANON, ACCORDING TO A U.N. STATEMENT. BUT
SALAH KHALAF SAID THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD FIGHT ON.
WAFA'S ACCOUNT OF ARAFAT'S MEETING WITH ERSKINE SAID THE
PLO WOULD HELP UNIFIL, BUT MADE NO REFERENCE TO A CEASE-
FIRE. END SUMMARY.

2. CONFLICTING PUBLIC STATEMENTS SHOW THAT THE PLO HAS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01717 291625Z

NOT YET CLEARLY ENDORSED A CEASE-FIRE FOR SOUTH LEBANON.

3. ACCORDING TO A U.N. STATEMENT, YASIR ARAFAT ACCEPTED
SECRETARYGENERAL KURT WALDHEIM'S MARCH 27 CALL FOR
A CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTH LEBANON DURING A MEETING WITH
UNIFIL COMMANDER ERSKINE IN BEIRUT ON MARCH 28
(SEPTEL). ARAFAT TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING

WITH ERSKINE: "I SAY ON BEHALF OF THE PLO AND THE JOINT FORCES THAT WE WILL PROVIDE ALL THE FACILITIES WITHIN OUR CAPACITY TO HELP THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FORCES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR MISSION. WE DO THIS TO FACILITATE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ISRAELI FORCES FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY."

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, FATAH OFFICIAL SALAH KHALAF (ABU-IYAD) WAS QUOTED IN LEFTIST AL-LIWA AS SAYING: "WE ARE NOT ISSUING ORDERS TO CEASE FIRE. WE HAVE NOT ACHIEVED ANYTHING IN OUR HISTORY WITHOUT FIGHTING. MILITARY OPERATIONS WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS THE ISRAELIS REMAIN IN SOUTHERN LEBANON." THE PLO'S REPRESENTATIVE AT THE U.N. ZAHDI TARZI, WAS QUOTED BY AP AS SAYING THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD CONTINUE TO "RESPOND TO ISRAELI PROVOCATIONS" AND THAT THE ISRAELI ARMED PRESENCE IN THE AREA WAS A MAJOR PROVOCATION."

5. WAFA'S ACCOUNT WAS EQUIVOCAL. ALTHOUGH WAFA SAID THE PLO WOULD FACILITATE THE MISSION OF UNIFIL TO HELP GUARANTEE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, IT MADE NO REFERENCE TO ACCEPTANCE OF THE CEASE-FIRE. FULL TEXT OF WAFA'S ACCOUNT IN MARCH 28 ENGLISH LANGUAGE BULLETIN FOLLOWS:

A. BEGIN TEXT. "AT THE REQUEST OF U.N. SECRETARY-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 01717 291625Z

GENERAL DR. KURT WALDHEIM, YASIR ARAFAT, CHAIRMAN OF THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND GENERAL COMMANDER OF THE FORCES OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION, MET A UNITED NATIONS DELEGATION IN HIS OFFICE THIS MORNING. ON THE PALESTINIAN SIDE, THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY ABU LUFT, HEAD OF THE PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, BRIG. SAAD SAYEL, LT. COL. ABU HAMID AND BASEL AQL. ON THE UN SIDE, THE COMMANDER OF THE UN INTERIM FORCES IN LEBANON (UNIFIL), GENERAL ERSKINE; THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF DR. WALDHEIM, JAMES JONAHOAN (JONAH); AND THE LIAISON OFFICER OF THE UN TROOPS IN LEBANON, COLONEL LAJEUNESSE, WERE PRESENT.

B. "DURING THE MEETING, ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE TO FACILITATE THE UN TROOPS' MISSION IN THE OCCUPIED REGIONS OF SOUTH LEBANON. WAFA LEARNED THAT ARAFAT AFFIRMED THAT THE PLO IS READY TO EXTEND ALL REQUIRED FACILITIES TO MAKE THE UN FORCES' MISSION SUCCESSFUL AND TO GUARANTEE THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON. ARRANGEMENTS WERE ALSO MADE TO APPOINT LIAISON OFFICERS FROM BOTH THE JOINT FORCES AND THE UN TROOPS." END TEXT.

PARKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, MEETINGS, POLITICAL LEADERS, COMMUNIQUES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT01717
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780136-0531
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780316/aaaaamqw.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5f26febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3175546
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PALESTINIAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ARAFAT'S MEETING WITH ERSKINE
TAGS: MOPS, PDEV, LE, PLO, (ARAFAT, YASIR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5f26febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014